**LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**SUMMARY REPORT (INCLUDING FINANCES) FOR THE YEAR:**

**1 APRIL 2019 TO 31 MARCH 2020**

**1. CHAIRMAN, COUNCILLORS AND CLERK**

Lyddington Parish Council (LPC) is made up of seven parish councillors who elect the Chair and Deputy Chair. Fiona Buchanan acts as the Parish Clerk. Cllr Libby Hobley is the current Chair and Cllr Tony Fowell is the Vice Chair. The five other parish councillors are Holly East, Martin Fennemore, Dinah Hurwood, Geoff Macfarlane and Barney Sturgess.

Local elections took place in May 2nd 2019 but the election in Lyddington was uncontested as the number of candidates did not exceed the available parish councillor vacancies. Parish councillor Martin Fennemore was welcomed and co-opted on to LPC in November 2019 following the resignation of former parish councillor John Meadows.

County Councillor Andrew Brown, independent, was elected to represent Lyddington.

**2. PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

During the year there were six parish council meetings and one annual parish meeting held in the Village Hall. Meeting agendas and a summary of the minutes are displayed on the village notice boards. The full minutes and agendas are available on the website. The dates of future meetings are also displayed on the notice boards and website. Members of the parish are welcome to attend the meetings to ask questions and raise issues before the main business commences.

**3. WEBSITE (**[**www.lyddingtonpc.org.uk**](http://www.lyddingtonpc.org.uk)**)**

The parish council website features up to date details on the work of LPC. Since the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) there is a published privacy policy. Information and questions can be sent to the parish clerk through the website’s contact page for discussion and consideration at the next LPC meeting.

**4. PLAYING FIELD AND PLAY PARK**

The play park remains popular with the children of the village as well as attracting families from further afield. Monthly safety inspections of the play equipment are carried out by a trained member of LPC and the parish council also commission an annual inspection by an equipment inspection engineer. LPC has agreed that an additional operational check will be carried out during the year to ensure the play equipment meets current safety standards.

The swings on the Green have been removed due to safety concerns highlighted in the annual inspection report. LPC decided to remove the swings as it was not possible to amend the problem at the present location. The costs of moving the swings to another, level location on the Green would be prohibitive, particularly given the age of the swings and, secondly, it would ultimately be disruptive to village events such as the fete.

LPC has agreed that the £5,750 from the Mary Parnham Trust should be put towards a project that would have lasting value for the village. Two possible suggestions are a new item of play equipment or a portable stage for the Village Hall.

Unfortunately, the play park is closed at present in line with Government advice on the COVID-19 outbreak.

**5. LYDDINGTON TENNIS**

Lyddington Tennis operate the tennis court on the playing field on behalf of the Parish Council. Cllr Barney Sturgess is the LPC representative on the Lyddington Tennis Committee. Members of Lyddington Tennis now book court sessions through LPC’s website.

The tennis court is also closed at present in line with Government advice on the COVID-19 outbreak.

**6. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE AND THE VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT**

RCC continue to cut the verges in Lyddington and the parish council manages the ground maintenance around the village including the New Cemetery, the Green, the bench sites on Stoke Road and Thorpe Road, the playing field, allotments and children’s play area. To ensure value for money and an improved service, the parish council appointed a new contractor to manage the ground maintenance contract with a requirement that there is a minimum of 13 cuts throughout the growing season. Repairs have been carried out on damaged fences and the fence around the enclosed children’s play area is being replaced. A new noticeboard in the New Cemetery has been installed.

***SURVEY ON TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES***

LPC conducted a survey of parishioners on a range of traffic calming measures and the two most popular options were to reduce the current 30 mph speed limit to 20 mph and reduce the existing speed indicator displays/ vehicle activated signs currently set at 30mph to 20 mph. A total of 121 parishioners gave their views and a few residents emailed their comments without giving a score.

RCC conducted a traffic feasibility study in the village and their report was due to be presented to RCC’s Highways and Transport Working Group (HTWG) in March 2020. Parish councillors have shared their views with County Councillor Andrew Brown to inform the debate and recommendations, but selected meetings have been postponed due to the current Covid-19 crisis.

***NEW KERBING***

Parish councillors considered a range of materials available for road kerbing to ensure that any new additions are in keeping with the current village kerb stones. Parts of the verge running along the northern part of Main Street are being steadily eroded. LPC agreed to wait until RCC announce their decision concerning traffic calming measures for Lyddington in case they may affect the village’s Main Street.

***COMMEMORATIVE TREES***

Midland Hawthorne trees have been planted at the north and south entrances to the village to mark the WWI Commemorations. An accompanying plaque says ‘Planted by Lyddington Parish Council to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War (1918 - 2018)’.

**7. THE CEMETERY**

Cemetery fees were again reviewed in 2019 and updated to bring them in line with Uppingham’s burial fees. The current schedule is available on the website.

LPC is still seeking to purchase a small plot of land within the boundaries of Lyddington that would become an extension to the current New Cemetery. There are burial and cremation places still available, but the parish councillors wish to make provision now rather than leaving the issue for a future council to find an appropriate solution for the village.

**8. ALLOTMENTS**

There are12 allotment plots that are rented on an annual basis. Fees were held at £15 per plot for the 2019 growing season. There are no current plots available for rent and there is a waiting list. Please contact the parish clerk If you would like further information.

**9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Thirty-seven planning and tree applications were considered (19 buildings, including 11 listed building consents, and 18 tree applications) during the year by the parish council. Thirty-five of the 37 applications were supported by both LPC and subsequently by RCC’s planning department. An appeal was lodged against the refusal of planning permission for the sub-division of site into two separate buildings at 15 Main Street, Lyddington.

**10. STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS**

The street lighting in the village is now managed by RCC and the annual community street lighting charge for 2019/20 is £335.72. There is progress concerning the project to underground the electricity cables at the north end of the village. In the past Western Power Distribution (WPD) has laid high voltage cables along three quarters of Lyddington’s Main Street. WPD is now in the process of agreeing the final stage of the project.

After all the consent agreements have been signed, WDP will be able to announce the start date. Parishioners will be kept informed of the future work schedule, its timing and possible short-term traffic disruption.

**11. FINANCE**

Each year, the parish council prepares a budget for its estimated expenditure for the forthcoming financial year, commencing 1st April. This budget sets the amount to be requested from RCC - the “precept”. The precept is raised by RCC through the council tax and is shown on each individual council tax bill issued usually in March. The precept for the 2019/20 year was £8,500, but LPC asked for an increase and was awarded a precept of £9,000 for 2020/21 to enable the parish council to make further planned improvements on the playing field, including a new boundary fence and to seek a small plot of land for additional cemetery space.

Further sources of income are cemetery fees and annual allotment payments. Expenditure comprises of grounds maintenance, street lighting, insurance, clerk’s salary and administration costs, general maintenance of facilities, audit fees, room hire and any other item budgeted for and approved by the parish council. The major sources of income and expenditure for the financial year 2019/20 are set out below. Miscellaneous costs cover one off payments such as a new village sign, a replacement noticeboard for the New Cemetery, commemorative WWI plaques and new football nets for installation in summer 2020. The featured figures do not include VAT which will be reclaimed from HMRC.

**Please note that this is not a balance sheet.** The full accounts for the year will shortly be prepared for submission to the external auditor. The accounts will be posted on the parish council website and any member of the parish who wishes to view the full accounts may do so by appointment with the parish clerk. Figures are shown excluding VAT, which will be reclaimed.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Income**  |  |  |  | **Expenditure** |  |  |
| Precept  |  | £8,500.00 |  | Grounds Maintenance  |  | £3,089.50 |
| Cemetery Fees |  | £333.00 |  | Street Lighting  |  | £335.72 |
| Shares Dividend |  | £7.27 |  | Salary |  | £2,595.40 |
| Wayleave (electricity) |  | £31.33 |  | Including/admin/audit |  |  |
| Allotments |  | £180.00 |  | Play Park Inspection |  | £90.00 |
| From HMRC  |  |  |  | Insurance  |  | £894.15 |
| (VAT reclaim period 1st April 1st 2018 ‘- 31st March’19) |  | £96.43 |  | Room Hire |  | £101.25 |
|   |  |  |  | Website (including email/hosting) |  | £250.00 |
|  |  |  |  | Membership fees |  | £256.45 |
|  |  |  |  | Heartsafe AED locator |  |  £33.60 |
| VAT to be reclaimed  |  | £885.26 |  | Miscellaneous costs |  |  £2,430.73 |
|  |  |  |  |   |  |  |
| Total |  | **£10,033.29** |  | **Total** |  | **£10,076.80** |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Funds as of 30 March 2020** | **£** |  | **Funds as of 30 March 2019** | **£** |
| Represented by Bank Account | £17,687.45 |  | Represented by Bank Account | £19,801.52 |
| Investments (223 x 35 pence) |  |  £78.05 |  | Investments  |  | £139.26 |
|  |  | **£17,765.50** |  |  |  | **£19,940.78** |
| This figure includes the £5,750 from the Mary Parnham Trust that is ring fenced for educational activities. |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Fiona Buchanan** Parish Clerk, on behalf of Lyddington Parish Council – March 2020